

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

25 July 1984

Dr. Neal Petersen  
Deputy Historian  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Neal:

The end of last month, just before I went on leave, David Mabon called me about William Colby's having sent the corrected transcript of his interview to CIA, rather than back to David as requested. I eventually got the transcript, which I'll enclose for you to return to David. It emerged that Mr. Colby had not been certain that CIA would have a prior clearance opportunity if he returned it directly to State.

The Directorate of Operations, who approved these interviews, and I have worked out a policy for handling these transcripts, which I hope will avoid delays and simplify life for your historians and for CIA. We would like (as the enclosed letter from our Executive Director explains to Mr. Colby) for the State Department and the CIA officer interviewed to treat these transcripts as potentially classified--i.e. as not cleared for publication. If you want to use any part of a transcript in FRUS, you can submit it for CIA review in the ordinary way. Similarly, if any of the CIA officers interviewed want to publish any or all of an interview, they can submit it to the CIA Publication Review Board. It will save us a lot of trouble, while still protecting this material as potentially classified, if we do not have to review a transcript until either your office or the officer interviewed wants to publish something from it.

I hope this will work well for all of us, but if there are any problems I trust you'll let me know.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

J. Kenneth McDonald  
Chief Historian

STAT

Enclosures

Distribution:

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9 JUL 1964

Mr. William E. Colby

STAT

Dear Mr. Colby:

We have received the transcript of your interview with David W. Mabon, Office of the Historian, Department of State, and have returned it to him through the Office of the CIA Historian without submitting it to a classification review.

As you may recall, we have a standing agreement with State to conduct a classification review of all material relating to Agency interests selected for publication in the series Foreign Relations of the United States.

Regarding the interviews now being conducted by the Department on the Vietnam War, we have reaffirmed with their historical office that all interviews with Agency employees, former or active, should be regarded as containing potentially classified material. We do not plan to review the transcripts of individual interviews, but rather only that material selected for publication.

Please consider your interview with the State historian as potentially classified. If you wish to publish any portion of that interview, we are prepared, of course, to conduct a regular pre-publication review of that material.

Sincerely,

STAT

James H. Taylor  
Executive Director